IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1, 3, 4 6-8, and 11 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for managing a plurality of ~~an~~ actual execution workflows, each thereof for executing a flow of work, on the basis of a virtual workflow for monitoring said plurality of actual execution workflows, said actual execution workflows and said virtual workflow each including a plurality of nodes, ~~respectively,~~ comprising the steps of:

————————linking at least one process node of each of said actual execution workflows with a node of said virtual workflow, a process state of said process node thus linked being permitted to be disclosed to a user of another actual execution workflow;

~~selecting a processing node of said actual execution workflow to make the node thus selected be linked with a node of said virtual workflow;~~

specifying a node of said virtual workflow;

acquiring a node of said actual execution workflows linked with the node thus specified; and

outputting a progress state of the acquired node as a progress state of the specified node of said virtual workflow.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

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setting a user's privilege of operation at each node of said virtual workflow; and

registering the user's privilege of operation thus set in a virtual workflow definition for defining said virtual workflow.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining an actual execution workflow definition for defining said actual execution workflow<u>s</u> by using an attribute of a virtual workflow definition for defining said virtual workflow; and

inputting execution information of said actual execution workflow<u>s</u> by using the actual execution workflow definition thus determined.

4. (Currently Amended) A virtual workflow managing system for managing <u>a plurality of</u> an actual execution workflow<u>s, each thereof</u> for executing a flow of work<u>,</u> accessing an actual execution workflow definition for defining said actual execution workflow<u>s</u> and a virtual workflow definition for defining a virtual workflow for monitoring said actual execution workflow<u>s</u>, said actual execution workflows and said virtual workflow including a plurality of nodes, respectively, comprising:

a storage unit for storing said actual execution workflow definition containing an ID of said actual execution

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workflow<u>s</u> and an ID of each of <u>said</u> nodes contained in said

actual execution workflow;

a storage unit for storing virtual workflow

definition containing an ID of said virtual workflow , an ID

of each of <u>said</u> nodes contained in said virtual workflow and

access privilege information given to a user using said

virtual workflow definition at each node of said virtual

workflow; and

a workflow link definition storage unit for storing

an ID of a link linking an ID of a node of said virtual

workflow with an ID of a corresponding node selected from said

actual execution workflow<u>s</u>.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method as claimed in

claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of virtual workflow

definitions for defining said virtual workflow, said method

further comprising the steps of:

inputting information for selecting virtual workflow

definition ; and

determining a virtual workflow definition on the

basis of said input information.

6.   (Currently Amended)   In a workflow system having a

client and a server, a method for managing <u>a plurality of</u> ~~an~~

actual execution workflow<u>s, each thereof</u> for executing a flow

of work<u>,</u> on the basis of a virtual workflow for monitoring

said <u>plurality of</u> actual execution workflow<u>s</u>, said actual

execution workflow<u>s</u> and said virtual workflow <u>each </u>including a plurality of nodes, ~~respectively,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

holding a virtual workflow definition for defining nodes of said virtual workflow according to purpose of use by said client, an actual execution workflow definition for defining processing nodes of said actual execution workflow<u>s</u> and a workflow link definition for linking said virtual workflow definition of nodes of said virtual workflow with said actual workflow definition<u>s</u> of selected nodes of said actual execution workflow<u>s</u>, on the basis of an indication given from said client;

searching a node of said actual execution workflow<u>s</u> corresponding to a node of said virtual workflow specified by said client, based on said workflow link definition; and

outputting a progress state of said searched node of said actual execution workflow<u>s</u> as a progress state of said specified node of said virtual workflow to said client.

7.   (Currently Amended)   In a system having a client and a server, and for managing <u>a plurality of </u>~~an~~ actual execution workflow<u>s, each thereof</u> for executing a flow of work<u>,</u> on the basis of a virtual workflow for monitoring said <u>plurality of </u>actual execution workflow<u>s</u>, said actual execution workflow<u>s</u> and said virtual workflow <u>each </u>including a plurality of nodes, ~~respectively,~~ said server comprising:

an information storage unit for storing a virtual workflow definition for defining nodes of said virtual workflow according to a purpose of use by said client, an actual workflow definition for defining processing nodes of said actual execution workflows and a workflow link definition for linking said virtual workflow definition of nodes of said virtual workflow with said actual workflow definition of selected nodes of said actual execution workflows;

a processing unit for searching a node of said actual execution workflows corresponding to a node of said virtual workflow specified by said client, based on said workflow link definition; and

a processing unit for outputting a progress state of said searched node of said actual execution workflows as a progress state of said specified node of said virtual workflow to said client.

8.   (Currently Amended)   In a storage medium readable by a computer for storing a program of a method for managing a plurality of an actual execution workflows, each thereof for executing a flow of work, on the basis of a virtual workflow for monitoring said plurality of actual execution workflows, executed by a sever in a workflow system having a client and said server, said actual execution workflows and said virtual workflow including a plurality of nodes, respectively, said method comprising the steps of:

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holding a virtual workflow definition for defining nodes of said virtual workflow according to a purpose of use by said client, an actual execution workflow definition for defining processing nodes of said actual execution workflows and a workflow link definition for linking said virtual workflow definition of nodes of said virtual workflow with said actual workflow definition of selected nodes of said actual execution workflows, based on an indication given from said client;

searching a node of said actual execution workflows corresponding to a node of said virtual workflow specified by said client, based on said workflow link definition; and

outputting a progress state of said searched node of said actual execution workflows as a progress state of said specified node of said virtual workflow to said client.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said virtual workflow definition holds information about a type of a privilege of operation by said client to said actual workflow definition at each node of said virtual workflow, said type being at least one privilege selected from a display privilege, a reference privilege and an input privilege.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein each of said nodes contained in said virtual

workflow definition is linked with a node selected from a plurality of actual workflow definitions.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

if a privilege of reference to the acquired node is not permitted to a user requesting the progress state of the specified node, searching the nodes of said actual execution workflows for a previous node closest to the acquired node and having a privilege of reference permitted to the user; and

outputting a progress state of the previous node as a progress state of the specified node of said virtual workflow.